MINUTES FOR THE July 14, 2016, BOARD MEETING OF THE SUPERVISORS FOR THE CLAY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, HELD AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE, MOORHEAD, MN.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Krabbenhoft, at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Paul Krabbenhoft, Chairperson

Joel Hildebrandt, Vice Chairperson

Carol Schoff, Treasurer Randy Schellack, Secretary Steve Dalen, Reporter

Others present: Kevin Kassenborg, District Manager

Amanda Lewis, District Coordinator Craig Halverson, District Technician/CFO

Lynn Foss, Water Resource Management Technician

Tony Nelson, PF Biologist Gabe Foltz, District Technician Sharon Lean, District Conservationist Duane Erickson, Local Landowner Brittney Johnson, E.O.T. SWCD

Absent:

Jenny Mongeau, County Commissioner

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVE AGENDA: M/S/P Schellack/Schoff to approve the July Agenda. Motion Carried.

Meeting and mileage forms completed by Supervisors.

<u>SECRETARY'S REPORT:</u> A draft copy of the June 9, 2016 meeting minutes was emailed to the Supervisors prior to the July meeting. <u>M/S/P, Schoff/Dalen to approve the June 9, 2016 minutes.</u> Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mandy discussed the financials.

M/S/P, Schoff/ Schellack, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

APPROVAL ITEMS:

APPROVE THE 2017 DNR OBSERVATION WELL AGREEMENT: Kevin discussed the new agreement. Some of the well numbers to check changed for this year.

M/S/P, Hildebrandt/ Schellack to approve the above mentioned Well Agreement. Motion carried.

<u>APPROVE VOUCHERS PAID:</u> The list of vouchers from Elect #16-42 to 16-50, QuickBooks checks #18962-#19019 and Bank checks # 15477 was reviewed and credit given to have been paid by due date.

<u>M/S/P, Hildebrandt/Schellack, to approve the vouchers that had been paid as listed.</u> Motion carried.

FARM BILL GRANT AGREEMENT DONATION REQUEST TO WRWD: Our recently approved BWSR Farm Bill Assistance Partnership Grant requires a 10% (\$6,500) match from the SWCD and a local partner organization(s). Earlier, the Board suggested we contact the local Clay County Pheasants Forever Chapter as well as the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) to contribute (33%), as they have done since 2012. It was also suggested we contact the Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) to see if they would be willing to partner with us and contribute 25% (\$1,625) to the grant. Supervisor Krabbenhoft and Farm Bill Biologist, Tony Nelson offered to attend the WRWD July 13th Board Meeting, make a presentation to their Board members and ask them to consider contributing to the match requirement. On a 4-3 vote, our request was denied. Attending today's SWCD Board Meeting is WRWD Manager Duane Erickson. Duane discussed the SWCD's request. He suggested that we build a stronger relationship with the WRWD by sending them our minutes and agenda for our Board Meetings. He believes a partnership with the WRWD is crucial for the new Buffer Initiative. Duane would like to donate the match portion for the Farm Bill Grant. The board agreed to have Duane donate \$1,625 to The Ulen Land Preservation Group, if they approve, which would then donate that amount to the match portion of the Farm Bill Grant. The Board thanked Duane for his offer.

NRCS ITEMS: See attached report

Sharon left at 4:40 pm

MAWQCP: Brittney Johnson, E.O.T. SWCD discussed the position that is available for the MAWQCP specialist, the program, the benefits of the program, questions about the application and different funding sources for the program.

Brittney left the meeting at 5:00 pm

<u>BUFFER INITIATIVE:</u> Kevin and Lynn gave a presentation on DNR's updates Buffer Map and the process for their comment period. The deadline for the 1st comment period was May 31st. There will be tentative revisions to the map in October and January using the comments that were submitted. Kevin submitted comments that landowners had as they came in.

<u>CLAY COUNTY BOARD BUDGET MEETING:</u> Paul Carol & Kevin discussed their meeting with the County Board.. There was an e-mail sent out from Doug Thomas, BWSR, discussing the additional funds that will be offered to SWCD's and how to go about budgeting for them.

BUFFER INITIATIVE UPDATE: Tony stated that Lynn, Gabe, Kevin, and he attended the meeting in Detroit Lakes. Tom Gile, BWSR, gave a presentation and reviewed policies. There is a comment period currently being held on those policies. Discussed the different tracking types that will be available for use. Discussed the site reviews to determine why the area is on the public waters map. Discussed the other waters that SWCD's will be submitting. Discussed the deadline of March 31, 2017 for the authority (for enforcement) figure to be determined.

FARM BUREAU PRESENTATION: Kevin stated that the Farm Bureau meeting was held today, July 14 at the Ray Johnson Farm near Glyndon. Carol had attended and discussed the attorney's presentation and the history of the Buffer Law. There were 60-70 people in attendance.

<u>LISTENING/DISCUSSION SESSION W/JOHN JASCHKE:</u> Kevin, Craig, Lynn, Tony, and Gabe attended the meeting. Discussed the One Watershed One Plan transition, the Cost-share program, the Grant's Verification process, and other BWSR activities.

2016 WELL INITIATIVE: Kevin stated that a new acceptable practice for the Ag BMP Loan Program, allows for well replacements in some cases.

<u>ADVANCED EMPLOYMENT ISSUES MEETING:</u> Mandy and Kevin attended the meeting in St. Cloud. They discussed the new employment laws with the legalization of Medical Marijuana and different policies that will need to be in place in the future.

MN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROUNDTABLE REGIONAL BUFFER WORKSHOP: Kevin stated that the meeting will be held on August 4, 2016 in Detroit Lakes, MN. Kevin, Tony, Lynn, Gabe, Paul, Carol, Randy, and Steve plan on attending.

<u>MASWCD & DNR GROUNDWATER WORKSHOP:</u> Discussed the meeting being held on August 4, 2016 in Thief River Falls, MN. No one plans on attending due to the Buffer roundtable being held on the same day.

Randy Schellack left at 5:50 pm

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: No report

<u>CFO PROGRAM:</u> Craig stated that he had his mid-year review with Michelle Oye, MPCA. He has done one compliance check so far.

TREE PROGRAM: Craig stated that the tree program is done for the year.

<u>No-Till Drill Program</u> – Craig said that there has been 1480 acres seeded this year. The drill has been parked but he has received a couple calls for it to be used again for Fall seeding.

<u>URBAN CONSERVATION:</u> Mandy stated that she attended a golf scramble for River Keepers where she held a Rain Barrel/ Compost Tumbler presentation. She also attended a fish clinic at Ushers for River Keepers where she held a Storm-water drainage presentation to about 85 youth. The raingardens that the schools have been looking into is at a standstill as no-one wants to sign the 10 year State Cost-Share contract agreement.

LWM/WCA-CLWM PLAN UPDATE: See report

PLANNING COMMISSION: No Report

RRVCSA: No Meeting. No report.

<u>CAI PROGRAM:</u> Craig stated that we purchased a sprayer for the Ranger. Kevin stated that the Ag survey was completed and sent in.

PHEASANTS FOREVER: Tony stated that Dave Herbranson is cleaning up the farmstead areas. Tillage demonstration and land prep will be done by Titan with hopes to plant a portion this year. He is updating the Nevis Shulstad RIM/WRP Conservation plan. Talked about ongoing discussions with landowners, commenting, and reviewing options to meet Buffer requirements. Stated that MN BWSR is very optimistic about CREP III, still waiting on the final word from USDA about the details of the program. He has been busy doing site visits and veg surveys for expiring CRP contracts.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 15-17 – Clay County Fair – Barnesville, MN
July 18-20 – MACAI Annual Conference – Biwabik, MN
Aug. 4 – MN Local Government Roundtable Regional Buffer Workshop – Detroit Lakes, MN
Aug. 4 – MASWCD & DNR Groundwater Workshop

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Paul Krabbenhoft stated that he will not make the Aug. 11 meeting.

Steve Dalen left at 6:05 pm.

August 11, 2016 4:00	p.m.
	August 11, 2016 4:00

<u>ADJOURN:</u> Supervisor Krabbenhoft called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. <u>M/S/P, Schoff/Hildebrandt, to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 pm. Motion carried.</u>				
BY: Amanda Lewis District Coordinator	Randy Schellack Secretary	Signature after approved	Date	

NRCS DC Report July 14, 2016

For Clay County SWCD Board Meeting

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)

Moorhead NRCS office has received 7 EQIP applications. The applications are for:

- -2 Prescribed Grazing with associated practices
- -1 Rocked waterway
- -2 Water Sediment Control Basins (WSCOB)
- -1 Ring Dike
- -1 WSCOB and Terraces

I made phone calls to other producers interested in EQIP. There are two other producers interested and will be applying. One application would be for several WSCOB and the other application would be for pollinator habitat. Out of all the applications, I have 3 left to complete field reviews for resource concerns.

I am working on 2 EQIP payments for a Forage & Biomass Planting and Fencing. Soon I will working on practice checks for payments on Cover Crops, Livestock Pipeline, Watering Well and Watering Facilities.

2017 EQIP signup ends August 19th.

CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)

The approved CSP application is obligated to a contract. The CSP contract is for 1271.9 acres located in Parke and Skree Township. The yearly payment is for \$40,000.00.

I sent letters to producers about their applications not being approved.

I have one 2017 renewal CSP application to work on. This needs to be complete by the end of September.

ACEP (Agricultural Conservation Easement Program)

NRCS State Office has announce the application period for ACEP. The 2017 applications must be received by October 1, 2016. I have sent an ACEP article to the county papers.

I have completed one WRP payment. I am working on another payment that requires a modification and 153 for possible violation for not completing practices in a timely manner.

I have completed one WRP contract and management plan to obligate restoration money. The landowner was in last week to sign for the contract.

I am starting on the open obligation WRP contract's status reviews and all summary reviews.

Other completed items:

- -Several CRP weed control requests
- -Progress reporting
- -Create certified wetland maps
- -Three news articles
- -Civil Rights Report
- -Order supplies to the end of December
- -Completed two trainings Diversity on the Job: Diversity and You and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) Nondiscrimination in the Federal Workplace.
 - -7 AD-1026 for FSA. Total AD-1026 for the year is 132.

Sharon Lean District Conservationist USDA NRCS